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DISASTER REDUCTION AND RELIEF: DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATION

Note by the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/211

1. In its resolution 45/221 of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to make proposals to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1991 for the strengthening of the capacity of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) to fulfil its mandate, in the light of an overall analysis of the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to calls for disaster mitigation and emergency relief assistance.

2. The Secretary-General is keenly aware of the great importance for the United Nations to have the necessary capacity to respond in a timely and coherent manner to calls for disaster mitigation and emergency relief assistance. In this context, the Secretary-General would like to draw attention to a request of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1990/78 of 27 July 1990 for a review of the experience, capacity and coordination arrangements of the United Nations system in assisting refugees, displaced persons and returnees. To that end, the Secretary-General requested a senior consultant, Mr. Jacques Cuenod, to undertake an independent study of this entire subject. The study contains, inter alia, a number of interesting proposals which also have a direct bearing on the functioning of UNDRO. This study is being made available to the Council at its present session. In light of this, the Secretary-General is of the view that the question of the strengthening of UNDRO could best be examined in the context of the system-wide review of the United Nations capacity to respond to emergency situations.

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* E/1991/100.

3. The Secretary-General will, accordingly, follow closely the deliberations of the Council on this important subject in order to take fully into account the views of Governments in formulating his conclusions. It would be his intention, therefore, to report further to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.